

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 INR-01 PA-01 /005 W

----- 111030

O R 170845Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3021

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 9886

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. COMMUFUST SOLDIERS ATTACKED THE AIRFIELD AT KOMPONG CHAM SUNDAY LEAVING 20 OF THEIR DEAD BEHIND AS FANK REPULSED THE ATTACK. FANK REPORTED LIGHT LOSSES IN THE ACTION. MEANWHILE, SOME 30 ROUNDS OF MIXED ARTILLERY FELL ON GOVERNMENT PERIMETER POSITIONS DURING THE DAY WITH LITTLE DAMAGE AND LIGHT CASUALTIES REPORTED.

2. TWO CAMBODIAN PROVINCIAL CAPITALS WERE SHELLED HEAVILY BY COMMUNIST GUNNERS SUNDAY. AT SIEMREAP ANGKOR, A SUNDAY MORNING ATTACK STRUCK THE CITY WOUNDING 15 CIVILIANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL. ANINE A.M. SHELLING AT SVAY RIENG KILLED TWO CIVILIANS AND WOUNDED 13 OTHERS WHILE FANK SUFFERED TWO WOUNDED. 30 MINUTES LATER, ANOTHER COMMUNIST ATTACK

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KILLED TWO CHILDREN. SIEMREAP

ANGKOR WAS SHELLED AGAIN SUNDAY NIGHT WITH LIGHT CASUALTIES.

3. ON NEWLY-CUT ROUTE 1, GOVERNMENT TROOPS ON MONDAY MADE SOME PROGRESS IN THEIR OPERATION TO CLEAR COMMUNIST FORCES FROM THE ONE-KILOMETER GAP WEST OF KOKI.

4. FANK SOURCES REPORT THAT GOVERNMENT TROOPS SUNDAY CLEARED TOUTE 30 WHICH LEADS SOUTH FROM PHNOM PENH ALONG THE BASSAC RIVER. THE ROAD IS NOW OPEN TO A POINT JUST NORTH OF SETBO, RZ CH REMAINS IN ENEMY HANDS.

5. COMMUNIST FORCES CONTINUED THEIR PRESSURE AGAINST THE ISOLATED FANK GARRISON AT VIHEAR SUOR NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH. MONDAY MORNING THEY SHELLED THE TOWN AND ITS PERIMETER AND FOLLOWED WITH A GROUND ASSAULT WHICH WAS CONTAINED. THERE WAS NO REPORT OF CASUALTIES.

6. THE FIRST OF TWO 200-BED HOSPITAL UNITS DESTINED FOR THE VICTIMS OF COMMUNIST ATTACKS UPON KOMPONG CHAM ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH MONDAY ON BOARD TWO USAF C-130 AIRPLANES. THYI EMERGENCY HOSPITAL UNITS ARE BEING PROVIDED UNDER THE U.S. ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM. DESCRIBED AS "HOSPITALS WITHOUT WALLS, THE UNITS INCLUDE ALL THE SUPPLIES, DRESSINGS, MEDICINES, BEDS, OPERATING ROOM FACILITIES AND GENERATORS NECESSARY FOR A MODERN MEDICAL FACILITY. THE SECOND 200-BED UNIT IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE TUESDAY. THE UNITS WILL BE INSTALLED IN UVM PONG CHAM AND PHNOM PENH.

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